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23 JUN 1943

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1942.

The Minister of Health has requested that interim reports only should be submitted for the year 1942, and should be confined to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

The Crude Death Rate is 11.81 as compared with 13.00 for the previous year and with 11.6 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 20.55 which is considerably lower than that for the country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Measles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious diseases during the year. The incidence of Scarlet Fever has been about the same as in the past, 49 cases being notified. The disease has been of a mild type.

Only two cases of Diphtheria were notified, one being a boy, 12 years of age, who had not been immunised and the other an adult.

Since the beginning of 1940, when over 90 per cent of the children 1 to 15 years of age have been immunised, only 5 cases of Diphtheria have been notified, three being children who ^{had} ~~have~~ not been immunised, the other two being adults. It is too early yet to draw conclusions from these figures but they would appear to have a certain significance.

Every effort was made during the year to persuade parents to accept immunisation for their children and 478 were immunised and 630 Schick tested. At the end of the year in the 1 to 5 years of age group ninety-seven per cent were immunised and in the 5 - 15 years group the percentage was ninety-four. Regarding the latter figure if private and public schools are excluded the figure is ninety-eight per cent, one school with only fifty per cent immunised being mainly responsible.

Of the elementary schools it is very gratifying to record that of the twenty-two schools, nine have one hundred per cent immunised.

Details relating to the administration of the scheme were given in my report for 1941 and I only wish to state that a card is made out for every child, whether immunised or not, full particulars being entered thereon. The district nurses have charge of the cards of the under five children in their area and the headteachers of those of the children attending their schools. These cards are collected and checked in this office every year so that the figures given are as accurate as is possible.

Every child is Schick tested by Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, three to six months after the second injection (A.P.T. .3 c.cs. and .5 c.cs. being the prophylactic used) and children are again tested when they come to school. I consider the Schick test to be an essential part of the scheme as a parent who has accepted immunisation for her child deserves to be assured that the immunisation has been successful and the only means of giving that information is by performing a Schick test.

I am extremely indebted to Dr. Duke, without whose initiative and drive such excellent results would not have materialised. All testing and the majority of the inoculations were carried out by him.

I also wish to record my sincere thanks to the general practitioners, the district nurses, the headteachers, members of the Women's Voluntary Services and the Red Cross Society for their co-operation and help.

SCABIES.

Although Scabies was not a notifiable disease in 1942 general practitioners were informed by letter of the facilities available for treatment by the Council and it was suggested that this department be informed of all cases so that adequate treatment could be carried out. It has been found that home treatment of this disease cannot be carried out satisfactorily and if the public health department is not kept informed of new cases, other cases among the contacts frequently occur. The general practitioners co-operated extremely well and when a case occurred treatment was carried out at

the Sick Bay for evacuated children or at the Mid-Sussex Isolation Hospital or at the Cleansing Centre for the local population. All contacts were seen by Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer of Health or by your Medical Officer of Health. Those found to be infected received two treatments on successive days and those who appeared to be clear received one prophylactic treatment.

In addition a search was made for cases among the school children, the hands of several hundreds of these being examined for the presence of burrows and quite a number of cases were unearthed in this way. Diagnosis is made by the aid of the magnifying glass and microscope. By demonstrating the live mite under the microscope to the mother it was found that she was only too willing to co-operate fully by bringing the remaining contacts for an examination. I strongly commend this method to other Medical Officers of Health who have not tried it.

One hundred and fifty-three cases came to the notice of the department, 63 being evacuee children and 90 being local children and adults.

It is interesting to record that the cases did not occur evenly throughout the year, some months being practically free, to be followed by a large batch in various parts of the district. This wave of cases was particularly noticeable and the weather did not appear to have any bearing on the phenomenon.

Although the general practitioners had co-operated by voluntarily notifying cases it was considered that the disease could be dealt with more satisfactorily if it were made compulsorily notifiable and the general practitioners would then receive a fee for each notification. Application was therefore made by the Council to the Ministry of Health to make an Order. This was sanctioned and made early in 1943.

GENERAL SANITATION

As in previous years nuisances have occurred from overflowing cesspools in the parishes of Slaugham, Horsted Keynes, Bolney and the northern part of Three Bridges. The only remedy is the provision of main drainage and it is hoped that this will be carried

out as soon as possible after the war, and at the same time where pail closets exist they should be replaced by waterclosets.

In all future development it is hoped that the Council will have power to insist on the provision of waterclosets and satisfactory disposal of sewage other than by cesspools, such as by a small disposal plant where main drainage is not available.

HOUSING.

Since the beginning of the war very little repair work to houses has been carried out, due to shortage of labour and restrictions on materials.

It will be obvious therefore that housing conditions in general have deteriorated during the past three years. The result of this in my opinion will be that an intensive drive on housing will be needed when conditions permit.

MILK PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY.

Considerable attention has been given during the past year to the supervision of the production and distribution of milk. Endeavours were made to visit the farms at milking time, advice being given on clean milk methods and considering the difficulties under which farmers are working, such as shortage of labour and black-out conditions, the general standard of milk production throughout the district is good. There are 272 milk producers and 94 samples were taken for a bacteriological examination, the majority being satisfactory, that is to say up to accredited standard.

Close supervision of the milk retailers was also carried out. In one or two instances insufficient sterilisation of bottles was discovered and upon advice being given the matter has been remedied. Forty-nine samples were taken for a biological examination and of these four were positive.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Over 200 visits were paid to bakehouses and food preparing premises, conditions being found to be satisfactory. In addition to this a considerable amount of time was given by Mr. Jones and Mr. Atkin at the Government Slaughterhouse.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All public water supplies were examined chemically and bacteriologically and all were satisfactory. In addition 94 samples of private supplies were chemically examination. This work entailed 782 visits.

I am indebted to Mr. Jones, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation in the administration of the Health Services and to the other members of the Staff and in particular to Miss Everson my Chief Clerk.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. Starr

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the Year 1942.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	74,360
Population estimated to middle of year	...	...	...	...	27,510
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£202,657
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£823
Density of Population (persons per acre)	...	...	...	...	0.37
Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	8,459
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	15.92
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	11.81
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	20.55

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

<u>Cause of Death</u>					Males	Females
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	3	2
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	3	3
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	1	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	4
10.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	-	-
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	...	...	...	-	1
13.	Cancer of b.cav and oesoph.(male) uterus (female)	...	...	...	5	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	5	4
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	-	12
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	15	23
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2
18.	Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	12	19
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	46	59
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	7	4
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	4
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	2
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	5	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	4	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	-	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	2	1
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	5	4
29.	Puerperal and post-abor. sepsis	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	1	1
32.	Con.mal birth inj. infant. dis.	...	...	...	3	-
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	-
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	-	2
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	2	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	20	13
Totals					158	167

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1942 (Provisional Figures)

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Small-pox	Measles	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.8	0.54	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.09	-	0.01	5.2	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.3	0.66	13.3	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.09	-	0.02	7.5	59
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	18.4	0.62	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.10	-	0.01	4.8	46
London	14.0	0.48	13.9	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.07	-	0.01	6.6	60
Cuckfield Rural District	15.92	0.29	11.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	-	0.00	0.00	20.55

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows:— per 1,000 Total Births 0.42 1.53 2.01

The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Cuckfield Rural District are as follows: Nil Nil Nil

Puerperal Sepsis Others Total

Table showing present position with regard to Dairy
Farms in the Area.

Parish	Number of Dairy Farms	Accredited:		Tuberculin Tested		Sterilisation	
		Produce and Bottle.	Produce only	Produce and Bottle.	Produce only	Steam	Boiling Water
Albourne	9	-	5	1	-	9	-
Ardingly	10	-	1	-	1	5	5
Balcombe	23	-	4	-	2	12	11
Bolney	14	-	3	-	-	7	7
Cuckfield Rural	38	1	9	-	5	21	17
Clayton	6	-	1	-	-	5	1
Fulking	4	-	1	-	-	3	1
Horsted Keynes	16	-	4	-	1	7	9
Hurstpierpoint	29	1	16	-	-	23	6
Keymer	3	-	2	-	-	2	1
Lindfield Rural	25	-	7	1	1	10	15
Newtimber	4	-	3	-	-	3	1
Pyecombe	4	-	2	-	-	2	2
Poynings	2	-	1	-	-	2	-
Slaugham	19	-	4	-	1	11	8
Twineham	7	-	2	-	1	5	2
West Hoathly	23	1	8	-	1	15	8
Worth	36	-	9	-	1	14	22
Totals	272	3	82	2	14	156	116

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Table showing percentage of children immunised in areas and schools:-

(1) <u>Nurses Areas - Children 1 - 5 years of age.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Bolney, Sayers Common	100
Poynings and Pyecombe	100
Crawley Down	99
Albourne and Hurstpierpoint	98
Copthorne	98
Handcross, Slaugham	98
West Hoathly	98
Balcombe	97
Hassocks	97
Turners Hill	95
Three Bridges	94
Horsted Keynes	92.5
Ardingly	87
Scaynes Hill	85
(2) <u>Elementary Schools.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Albourne	100
Ardingly	100
Bolney	100
Crawley Down	100
Hurstpierpoint Senior	100
Poynings	100
Pyecombe	100
Sayers Common	100
Twineham	100
Copthorne	99
Worth Three Bridges Junior	99
Handcross	98
Scaynes Hill	98
Staplefield	98
Turners Hill	98
West Hoathly	98
Worth Senior	98
Hurstpierpoint Junior	97.5
Hassocks	97
Balcombe	96
Horsted Keynes	96
Slaugham-Warnglid	95

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	49	44	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Pneumonia	17	2	-
Erysipelas	8	2	-
Dysentery	19	10	-
Measles	116	10	-
Whooping Cough	29	-	-

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough	Totals
Albourne	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Ardingly	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	33
Balcombe	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Bolney	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	3	13
Cuckfield Rural	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	14	4	22
Fulking	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Horsted Keynes	1	-	-	-	1	-	18	-	2	22
Hurstpierpoint	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	1	49
Keymer	2	-	-	-	5	2	-	8	4	21
Lindfield Rural	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Newtimber	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Slaugham	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	29	13	47
Twineham	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
West Hoathly	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Worth	10	-	2	-	4	1	1	5	-	23
Totals	49	2	3	2	17	8	19	116	29	245

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	3	3	21	12	3	3	1	-	-	49
Diphtheria	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	5	-	5	4	17
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	2	8
Dysentery	-	-	1	9	6	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	19
Measles	1	6	3	15	17	35	21	15	3	-	-	-	116
Whooping Cough	2	3	2	3	3	11	3	-	1	1	-	-	29
Totals	3	9	10	31	29	69	38	21	16	3	10	6	245

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1942.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
15 - 25	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-
25 - 35	4	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1
65 and over	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	10	7	2	6	3	2	3	3

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District.	Other Districts
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria 'Carrier'	1	-	-	-
Vincent's Angina	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	45	4	8	-
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid 'B')	1	1	-	-
Meningitis, Cerebro-spinal	3	-	-	2
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	10	3	-	-
Streptococcal Throat	1	1	-	1
Measles	11	1	1	-
Chickenpox	2	-	3	-
Whooping Cough	1	2	-	-
Mumps	4	-	-	-
Acute Adenitis	1	-	-	-
Otitis Media	2	-	-	-
Gonococcal Conjunctivitis	-	1	-	-
Impetigo	2	-	4	-
Scabies	83	8	27	1
Observation Cases	1	-	-	-
Totals	175	22	43	4